

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 L-03 IO-13 /077 W
-----123378 061440Z /44

P 061250Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8901
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, US, BR
SUBJECT: FONMIN DISCOUNTS POSSIBILITY OF NEW MILITARY AGREEMENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA SEPTEMBER 1 REJECTED LOCAL PRESS SPECULATION THAT A NEW US-BRAZIL MILITARY AGREEMENT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.
2. MOST PROMINENT ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED MILITARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HAD APPEARED IN BRASILIA DAILY CORREIO BRAZILIENSE AGUST 30. PAPER CLAIMED THAT TALKS WOULD BEGIN WITHIN A FEW DAYS, AND THAT GOB WAS AWAITING ARRIVAL OF US DELEGATION CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE ARMED SERVICES. (USICA BRASILIA 301320Z AUG.)
3. IN DISMISSING SUCH REPORTS, SILVEIRA SAID, ACCORDING TO PRESS: "INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO INTERNAL LAWS. OTHERWISE, THERE WOULD BE NO AGREEMENTS. EVERY INTERNAL LAW IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE STATE, WHOSE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES CREATE THESE LAWS. WE HAVE AGREEMENTS HUNDREDS OF YEARS

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OLD WHICH GUARANTEE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF BRAZIL, WHICH HAS ALWAYS SUBORDINATED ITSELF TO ARBITRATION AND ARBITRATORS. IF WE BEGAN TO ACCEPT THAT THESE TREATIES COULD BE MODIFIED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, NOTHING WOULD BE SECURE OR EVEN RELATIVELY PERMANENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THIS. FOR US, THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL,

BASIC POINT. AS LONG AS THE US MAINTAINS THAT AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT CAN BE MODIFIED, INTERPRETED, OR NOT HONORED BECAUSE OF INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WILL NOT CONCLUDE (SUCH AN AGREEMENT)."

4. SILVEIRA WENT ON TO VOLUNTEER THAT THERE HAD BEEN A RECENT VISIT TO BRAZIL BY A HIGH-RANKING US MILITARY OFFICIAL (REFERENCE TO LAST MONTH'S VISIT BY DEP DIA DIRECTOR LT. GEN AARON). HOWEVER, FONMIN WENT ON, HE BELIEVED VISIT WAS FOR PURPOSE OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION BETWEEN ARMIES AND, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, "THERE WERE NOT EVEN ANY SOUNDINGS" MADE AS TO NEW MILITARY AGREEMENT DURING AARON STAY.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, JORNAL DE BRASILIA SEPT. 5 CARRIED POSSIBLY INSPIRED STORY BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH UNNAMED ARMY MINISTRY SOURCES WHO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED REGRET AT CONSEQUENCES TO BRAZIL OF ABROGATION OF PREVIOUS MILITARY AGREEMENTS BUT DENIED THAT NEW ONE WAS UNDER STUDY. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BRAZIL "CANNOT DEPEND ON OTHER COUNTRIES' ACQUIESCENCE IN CONDUCT OF (ITS) INTERNAL POLICY," THESE SOURCES REPORTEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF BRAZIL-US MILITARY RELATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT A NEW ACCORD MIGHT BE POSSIBLE "WHEN THERE IS A CHANGE IN THAT US ATTITUDE WHICH BRAZIL CONSIDERS INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AGREEMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL06971
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780362-1224
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780995/aaaadanh.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a40f6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1523726
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN DISCOUNTS POSSIBILITY OF NEW MILITARY AGREEMENT
TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a40f6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014